



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk (860)441-6640
Town Manager
(860)441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Rita Schmidt

Representatives Joe Baril, Tom Barnhart, Lori Bartinik, Alicia Bauer, Genevieve Cerf, Michael Collins, Syma Ebbin, Peter Fairbank, Robert Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Debra Jenkins, Carole McCarthy, Kevin McMahon, Richard Metayer, David Miner, Deborah Monteiro, James Moulding, Scott Newsome, Nora Patterson, Deborah Peruzzotti, Joy Plunket, Robert Post, Kevin Power, Don Pratt, Mary-Ellen Schefers, Eleanor Scussel, Jack Sebastian, Jennifer Smuts, Eleanor Steere, Fritz Stein, Joan Steinfeld, Irma Streeter, Mark Svencer, Patti Thunberg, Cheryl Tilney, Kevin Trejo, Tom Vivirito, Robert Walker Sr, and John Wheeler.

Wednesday, May 10, 2006

7:30 PM

Senior Center

Regular Meeting

A. ROLL CALL

The Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

39 members were present and a quorum was declared.

Members Present: Moderator Schmidt, Rep. Baril, Rep. Barnhart, Rep. Bartinik, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Cerf, Rep. Collins, Rep. Ebbin, Rep. Fairbank, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Jenkins, Rep. McCarthy, Rep. Metayer, Rep. Miner, Rep. Monteiro, Rep. Moulding, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Patterson, Rep. Peruzzotti, Rep. Plunket, Rep. Post, Rep. Power, Rep. Pratt, Rep. Scussel, Rep. Sebastian, Rep. Smuts, Rep. Steere, Rep. Stein, Rep. Steinfeld, Rep. Streeter, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Thunberg, Rep. Tilney, Rep. Trejo, Rep. Vivirito, Rep. Walker, Sr. and Rep. Wheeler, Jr.

Members Absent: Rep. McMahon and Rep. Schefers

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Assistant to the Town Manager Lee Vincent, Mayor Harry Watson, Town Councilors Heather Sherman Bond, Frank O'Beirne, and Catherine Kolnaski, School Superintendent Dr. James Mitchell, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Wes Greenleaf, Board of Education Administrative Staff, Planning & Development Director Mike Murhpy, Town Clerk Barbara Tarbox, and Assistant Town Clerk Sally Whitney.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag led by Dr. Mitchell.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 12, 2006

A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Smuts, seconded by Rep. Jenkins.

The vote carried 38 in favor, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Trejo.)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

1. Francis "Sam" Crowley, 8 Palmer Court, Noank, spoke as a resident to thank the members for their service to the Town and community. He noted that he is the Director of Ledge Light Health District, a long time member of the Harbor Management Commission, and enjoys boating as a pastime. He asked that the RTM reconsider Public Works Account 1035 in order to restore the funding designated for the Mystic River pump-out program. He feels strongly that this program prevents contamination of wetlands and beaches and protects the shellfish beds. He stated that it would be "penny wise and pound foolish" to eliminate this program. He noted that if boaters have to wait at pump-out facilities, the temptation to dump waste overboard becomes stronger. He feels the occurrences of dumping waste will increase.

2. Paul Bates, 47 Church Street, Noank, noted that he is the chairman of the Harbor Management Commission. He stated that the pump-out program receives a portion of its funding from the federal government. He feels that many boaters will dump their waste in the river rather than wait

at a facility and waste time that could be spent boating. He noted that some pump-out facilities may incur a loss of gas revenue with increased demand for pump-out service which is not as lucrative as selling gas.

3. Rita Volkman, 135 Dogwood Lane, Mystic, noted that she is a member of the Board of Education, but was speaking as a taxpayer. She stated that it is very important to restore the funding to the BOE account. She feels that even a \$800,000 reduction is too much and asked the RTM to fully restore the BOE budget request.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

2006-0119 FYE 2006 Fourth Quarter Transfers

This matter was Referred to the RTM Finance Committee, due back on June 14, 2006. The motion carried.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER:

1. Financial report

Mr. Vincent reported that the Unreserved & Undesignated Fund balance as of July 1, 2005 is approximately \$8.6 million; the General Contingency balance will be \$0 since the Town Council has approved and referred to the RTM additional fourth quarter transfers; the Capital Reserve balance is \$3,434,309.

2. Monthly briefing

Town Manager Mark Oefinger invited RTM members to participate in the "One Book, One Region" program and to read the handout that provides details about this program. He noted that articles in the "Town Manager's News" provided the information requested by the RTM for an update on the school project and the Steamboat Wharf dredging. He announced that East Lyme has decided to join the Ledge Light Health District.

The Manager stated that he would welcome reconsideration of the Public Works account and provide whatever assistance needed during deliberations on the pump-out boat program.

G. LIAISON REPORTS

The Moderator suggested that Liaison Reports be postponed because the budget considerations on the Board of Education accounts immediately follow the regular meeting.

This was agreed upon by consensus.

1. Town Council - Rep. Monteiro

No report.

2. Economic Development Commission - Rep. Cerf

No report.

3. Town Council/Board of Education/RTM Liaison Committee - Rep. Patterson

No report.

4. Permanent School Building Committee - Rep. Miner

No report.

5. P.B.F.D. Consolidation Review Committee - Reps. Baril & Steinfeld

No report.

6. Economic Development Strategic Planning Steering Ctee - Reps. Fairbank and Peruzzotti

No report.

7. Shellfish Task Force - Rep. Ebbin

No report.

H. COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Moderator requested suspension of the committee reports except for Community and Economic Development which has business to report on at this meeting. This was agreed upon by consensus.

1. FINANCE

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Granatosky

No report.

2. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Vivirito

*Chairman Vivirito read the minutes of the meeting held on April 17, 2006. (Minutes are attached.)
A motion to accept the minutes was made by Rep. Vivirito, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld and so voted unanimously.*

2006-0064 Acceptance of Open Space at Downes Patterson Subdivision

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OPEN SPACE AT DOWNES PATTERSON SUBDIVISION

WHEREAS, the Downes Patterson Subdivision, Mystic Street/Cow Hill Road, was approved on June 11, 2002, and

WHEREAS, the Groton Planning Commission, on January 24, 2006, recommended acceptance of approximately 9.09 acres of open space in the subdivision, including an active recreation area, and

WHEREAS, the open space parcel includes playground equipment and a partially paved path on the parcel south of Ledgeland Drive, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Council accepts the parcel of open space designated in the plan of the Downes Patterson Subdivision, also known as Mystic Highlands.

Refer to RTM

A motion was made by Rep. Vivirito, seconded by Rep. Steinfeld, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

3. EDUCATION

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Patterson

No report.

4. HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Wheeler

No report.

5. RECREATION

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town- Chairman Power

No report.

6. PUBLIC SAFETY

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Pratt

No report.

7. PUBLIC WORKS

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Collins

No report.

8. RULES & PROCEDURES

a. Chairman's notes of the business of the Town - Chairman Stein

No report.

I. OTHER BUSINESS

Rep. Jenkins asked when it would be appropriate to make a motion to reconsider Account 1035 Public Works to restore the pump-out program.

The Moderator responded that this should be requested at the budget session immediately following this meeting.

Rep. Granatosky addressed the members, pointing out the ramifications of reconsideration of an account. She cautioned that once an account is opened for reconsideration, that the entire account is subject to discussion and adjustments to any item in that account may be proposed. She stated that Public Works could always request a supplemental appropriation.

J. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. was made by Rep. Walker, seconded by Rep. Scussel and so voted unanimously.

Attest:

*Barbara Tarbox, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Sally A. Whitney, Assistant Town Clerk